



Plumeless Thistle

Carduus acanthoides



Plumeless thistle

General	Family: Sunflower (Asteraceae) Introduced from Europe Colorado List B - Eradication Required in Jefferson County
Habitat	Herbaceous biennial or short lived perennial Found in disturbed areas such as overgrazed pastures, rangelands, and roadsides
PLANT	
Vegetation	Plant 3-8 feet tall Leaves dark green with lighter mid-rib, hair on underside, spines on edges Stems winged with spines along edges Flower-heads at the tips of shoots
Roots	Taproot
Flower	June - September Reddish purple ½ -1 inch wide Bracts are narrow and tipped with a spine
Seed	Lacks pappus
Seedling	Rosettes formed the first year and bolt early in May to June of the next year
Reproduction	Seed

CONTROL – CHEMICAL		
<i>Timing</i>	<i>Herbicide</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Spring or Fall Rosette	2,4-D (various) Aminocyclopyrachlor + chlorsulfuron (Perspective) Aminopyralid (Milestone) Chlorsulfuron (Telar) Clopyralid (various) Dicamba (various) Glyphosate (various) Metsulfuron (Escort XP) Picloram (Tordon) Restricted Use Triclopyr (Garlon 3A, Garlon 4)	Use of a surfactant is recommended for most herbicides to help increase contact with the vegetation and to facilitate herbicide uptake. Refer to the specific label for the appropriate type of surfactant. Treating at the rosette and early bolt stage stops biennial weeds from using resources that desirable plants need to prosper. Refer to the individual label for allowed sites, specific timing, and restrictions about grazing and haying. Formulations of more than one active ingredient are available. For established populations, control will take a few years so treatment will need to be repeated.
Spring to Early Summer Rosette to Early flowering	2,4-D (various) Aminopyralid (Milestone) Aminocyclopyrachlor + chlorsulfuron (Perspective) Chlorsulfuron (Telar) Clopyralid (various) Dicamba (Banvel) Glyphosate (various) Metsulfuron (Escort XP) Picloram (Tordon) Restricted Use	Use all chemicals according to the manufacturer's label. The label will provide specific instructions including allowed sites, application methods, rates, storage, re-entry requirements and personal protective equipment. No specific recommendation or endorsement is made or implied by listing the above methods or products.
CONTROL -- NON-CHEMICAL		
<i>Technique</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Method</i>
Biological	N/A	
Burning	Not recommended	Not effective in controlling but may improve grass growth, which may act as competition. Burning may not be allowed so check with your local fire protection district for current restrictions.
Cultivation	Spring to Fall Rosettes and young plants without flower heads	May need to be repeated throughout the season and on an annual basis until the seedbank is exhausted. May allow more seeds to germinate due to disturbance.
Grazing	N/A	
Mowing	Spring to Early Summer	Plants may resprout. Repeat as needed throughout the season.
Prevention	Anytime	Maintain the health of the site by encouraging healthy stands of grass.
Removal	Spring to Early Summer Rosette to Bolting	Remove rosettes and young plants before they are more than 12 inches tall (before flower buds form). Remove at least the top couple inches of the taproot. Repeat as new rosettes germinate.
	Summer - Flowering	Remove flower heads, bag, and dispose of in the trash or landfill. Sever root a least a couple inches below the soil. Plants without flower buds do not need to be put in the trash.
	Fall - Rosette	Remove rosettes and at least the top couple inches of the taproot.
	Pulling when plants are small results in less bulk and makes disposal easier. Pulling will disturb the soil so it may contribute to more of the seedbank to germinate.	

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